

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/006,648

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 6-14 and 16-22 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-5 and 15 presently stand rejected.

Restriction Requirement

A provisional election of Group I, drawn to claims 1-5 was made on September 25, 2003. The Examiner noticed that claim 15 should have also been grouped with Group I. Applicants hereby affirm the election of claims 1-5 and 15.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Plows et al. (4,075,974).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-195250 A.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10-289489 A.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Komaki et al. (US 2001/0052320).

Claims 1-3 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikuchi (5,980,985).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikuchi (6,077,349).

Analysis

Of the rejected claims, only claim 1 is in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to this independent claim.

Claim 1 is directed to a film forming apparatus wherein the rotation unit rotates to form a film in a state in which a film forming liquid is supplied to a proximity of an outer periphery of a film forming jig, so as to contact with a side surface of the outer periphery of the film forming jig.

In each of the cited prior art references, the film forming liquid is supplied to a central portion of the film forming jig (or supplied along a pivot if the film forming jig has a pivot).

This is in marked contrast to the present invention in which the film forming liquid is supplied to the proximity of the outer periphery so as to contact with a side surface of the outer periphery of the film forming jig.

More specifically, Plows teaches that the film forming liquid is supplied to the center of the distributor 31 (Fig. 1). JP '250 supplies the resin 4 “into the center of the cap 2” (emphasis added) (English Abstract and Fig. 3). Similarly, JP '489 teaches that the liquefied “photoresist 3 is dropped by the nozzle 9 on the center of the lock out board 21” (emphasis added) (translated paragraph [0036] and Fig. 5). In Komaki, the resin is applied to the outer periphery of the support shaft 32, but not a side surface of the jig 31. Kikuchi '985 teaches that the nozzle 10 is placed “directly above the center of rotation...for ejecting the UV curable resin 9 onto a center of rotation of the disc substrate 2 and rotating disc 8” (emphasis added) (col. 8, lines 59-65 and Fig. 6). Likewise, Kikuchi '349 teaches that the “nozzle 8 is placed directly above a rotary disc 10 operating as the center of rotation of the disc substrate 7 and the rotary disc, and ejects the UV

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curable resin 13 to the center of rotation of...the rotary disc 10" (emphasis added) (col. 13, lines 1-4 and Fig. 6).

As discussed above, none of the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests supplying the liquid to contact with a side surface of the outer periphery of the film forming jig as in the present invention according to claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by any of Plows, JP '250, JP '489, Komaki, Kikuchi '349 and Kikuchi 985.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims 2-5 and 15. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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